



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**NOVEMBER 18, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MANSFIELD WOMAN INDICTED FOR EMBEZZLING \$37,480 FROM VETERANS ADMINISTRATION**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mansfield, Mo., woman was indicted by a federal grand jury today for embezzling funds from the Veteran's Administration.

**Sharon Marie Skaggs**, 54, of Mansfield, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Skaggs** embezzled \$37,480 from the Veterans Administration that she knew that she was not entitled to receive.

**Skaggs** was receiving death pension benefits attributable to her deceased husband's military service prior to March 1, 1997. The indictment alleges that **Skaggs** was remarried on March 1, 1997, but continued to illegally receive the benefits from March 1, 1997, through the end of December 2001.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration – Office of Inspector General.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in this indictment is simply an accusation and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

\*\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States

Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)